





The New Avengers and the Astonishing X-Men met to discuss the fate of Wanda Maximoff, the Scarlet Witch-the daughter of the powerful mutant terrorist Magneto. After losing control of her reality-altering powers and suffering a total nervous breakdown, Wanda unleashed chaos upon the Avengers, killing and injuring many of their number. Magneto intervened and took his daughter to the devastated island-nation of Genosha, where Charles Xavier—Professor X, the founder of the X-Men—was to help her recover. Xavier failed, and now it is up to Wanda's friends and teammates to decide whether she will live or die. But Magneto, Wanda, and her brother Pietro disappear...

Then the world burns to white. Reality as we knew it is gone...

...to be replaced by a society in which humans are the oppressed minority and mutants run the culture, ruling over all existing countries, religions, and politics. A kingdom united under the House of M.

Tony Stark's genius and business savvy have made Stark Industries one of the biggest corporations on the planet. Tony's boldness and courage have made him a crowd-pleasing favorite in the robo-fighting spectacle that is Sapien Death Match.

But no matter how successful Tony becomes, he'll always be seen as treated as an inferior, a mere Homo Sapien in a world run by Homo Superior mutants. Furthermore, he's treated as a child by his domineering father, Howard Stark, the retired founder of Stark Industries and the only man who consistently beats Tony in the Sapien Death Match arena.

Tony's life begins to crumble when he and Howard learn that a Stark Industries scientist, Dr. Henry Pym, has been mapping the mutant genome, an act forbidden by the regime of the House of M. After Tony orders Pym to cease his research, Pym disappears. When Tony tells Howard about the situation, Howard scornfully dismisses his son, telling Tony that he lacks the will to do what needs to be done.

In an effort to track down the rebellious Pym and salvage his self-respect, Tony dons an enhanced Iron Man suit, worlds away from the dated version used in Sapien Death Match. But while interrogating an underground cell of the Sapien Resistance, Tony is attacked by a group of Sentinels, one of which is controlled by the man who consistently proves himself Tony's better . . .

## Chapter Two: Independence Day

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